



Environmental
Quality

June 9, 2017

ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

Mr. James Flechtner, PE
Executive Director
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
235 Government Center Drive
Wilmington, N.C. 28403

Dear Mr. Flechtner:

Thank you for your June 7 letter regarding the presence of poly-fluoroalkyl substances present in the Lower Cape Fear River. We certainly understand the public concerns surrounding this issue and are working with the EPA and others to better understand the chemical compound and any potential impacts it may have.

It is important that people know that drinking water from the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and other utilities supplying consumers in the Lower Cape Fear Region meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Thank you for reinforcing that message with your customers and the media in the recent articles on this topic.

The EPA is the sole agency responsible for establishing drinking water standards nationwide. The federal agency has extensive resources necessary to determine the nature, extent and potential impacts of chemicals such as GenX. As such, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is awaiting guidance from the EPA that will provide our agency with the information needed to begin developing regulatory limits for GenX.

We recognize that the regulatory process can sometimes take considerable time. While we are awaiting guidance from the EPA, staff in DEQ will be working with Chemours to assess waste streams containing GenX and determine if the company can reduce the amount of the chemical compound being discharged to the river. I am also working closely with staff and health experts at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to stay abreast of any new developments from the numerous interested stakeholders so we can take swift action to address public health concerns.

Our No. 1 priority in DEQ is to protect public health and the environment. That is the mission that guides us. Please feel free to reach out to me at Sheila.Holman@ncdenr.gov or 919-707-8619 if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sheila Holman".

Sheila Holman
Assistant Secretary for the Environment



James R. Flechtner, PE
Executive Director
235 Government Center Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-332-6542
jim.flechtner@cfpua.org

June 7, 2017

Ms. Sheila Holman
State of North Carolina
Department of Environmental Quality
Assistant Secretary for Environment
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Dear Ms. Holman:

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority provides water and sewer service to nearly 200,000 customers in New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington. In addition to obtaining raw water from groundwater sources, the Authority uses surface water from the Cape Fear River, just upstream of Lock & Dam # 1 in Bladen County for treatment at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant and distribution to customers. The Sweeney Water Treatment Plant uses advanced treatment processes such as advanced coagulation/flocculation/sedimentation, ozone and UV, and BAC filtration.

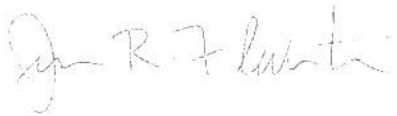
Recent research through N. C. State University shows that, since the year 2000 per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances have been introduced onto the market to replace long chain perfluoroalkyl acids (e.g. perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their respective precursors). This research indicates these poly-fluoroalkyl substances are present in the Lower Cape Fear River source water. These compounds are currently not regulated at the state or federal levels for discharge into the river. Due to the persistence of these compounds and the ineffectiveness of existing water treatment technologies in removing these compounds, these substances should be regulated at the point of discharge into the river to ensure they do not compromise public water supplies.

June 7, 2017

Page Two

Enclosed is a publication titled "Legacy and Emerging Perfluoroalkyl Substances Are Important Drinking Water Contaminates in the Cape Fear River Watershed of North Carolina" for your reference. As this is newly available information, we would welcome your assistance in evaluating implications for the area's source water. We would support actions identified by NCDEQ to ensure proper regulation and management of the dischargers for the protection of the river and its users. If additional information or assistance is needed, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James R. Flechtner".

James R. Flechtner, PE
Executive Director

Copy: Jay Zimmerman, Director NCDWR
Julie Grzyb, NPDES Permitting Supervisor
Jessica Godreau, PWS Section Chief

Enclosure